

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

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R 130505Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2580

INFO CINCPACREP GUAM MARIANNAS

COMTWELVE SAN FRAN CALIF

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7762

COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

CINCPACREP PASS TO STATUS LNO TRENT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, TQ, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE APPROACH TO TTPI RE CONTROL OF INVESTMENT

REF: (A) CINCPACREP 032304Z JUNE; (B) STATE 122884

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED QUESTIONS RAISED REFTELS WITH FONOFF. AFTER TALKING TO MITI AND "LEISURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER" (LDC), FONOFF INFORMED EMBASSY THAT LDC, IN ITS LETTER TO HICOM, HAD OVERSTATED ITS OFFICIAL CHARACTER AND THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED BY GOJ AS MONITORING OR SCREENING AGENT FOR JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN TTPI. FONOFF ADDED HOWEVER THAT GOJ IS CONCERNED THAT IF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN TTPI NOT COORDINATED AND CENTRALIZED, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL OCCUR IN MICRONESIA. IN THIS LIGHT, MITI (NAMIKI, HEAD INDUSTRIAL PLANNING DIVISION) HAD INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH ORGANIZERS OF LDC (WHICH IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING TOURIST INDUSTRY IN MICRONESIA AND SOUTH PACIFIC) POTENTIAL PROBLEMS OF INVESTMENT IN TTPI AND NEED FOR COORDINATION. FONOFF SAID THAT AT SOME POINT LDC AND/OR JAPAN
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MICRONESIA ASSOCIATION MAY BE ASKED TO PLAY SEMI-OFFICIAL

COORDINATING ROLE, BUT AT THIS TIME LDC IS IN NO POSITION TO MAKE COMMITMENTS FOR OTHER JAPANESE COMPANIES OR GOJ.

2. COMMENT: UNTIL SUCH TIME AS GOJ INFORMS US OF CHANGE OF STATUS OF LDC WE BELIEVE THAT ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE TREATED SIMPLY AS CONSORTIUM OF POTENTIAL PRIVATE INVESTORS IN TTPI. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE SLIGHT MISREPRESENTATION OF ITS TIES WITH GOJ, WE BELIEVE THAT LDC IS MADE UP OF RESPONSIBLE JAPANESE COMPANIES, AND WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT GROUP HAS CHOSEN TO APPROACH INVESTMENT IN MICRONESIA THROUGH FRONT DOOR. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST FOR TTPI GOVERNMENT TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF GROUP AND PERHAPS DEVELOP INFORMAL DIALOGUE ON APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR JAPANESE COMPANIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST INDUSTRY IN MICRONESIA.

3. FOR SAIPAN: HAMANAKA OF FONOFF WILL BE IN SAIPAN NEXT WEEK FOR PRELIMINARY WORK ON FALL GRAVES MISSION (SEPTTEL) AND WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE MORE BACKGROUND ON LDC. FONOFF SAYS THAT FIRST LDC REPS WILL PROBABLY VISIT TTPI IN JULY RATHER THAN JUNE. SHOESMITH

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